



State of New Hampshire  
**WATER WELL BOARD**



Roger B. Skillings, C.W.D. – P.I., *Water Well Contractor*  
David R. Hunt, *Water Well Contractor*  
Stephen R. Smith, *Pump Installer*  
Richard P. Schofield, P.G., *Staff*

Steven Garside, *Technical Driller*  
Rene Pelletier, P.G., *Dept. of Environmental Services*  
Frederick H. Chormann, Jr., P.G., *State Geologist*  
Steve Guercia, *Certified Operator, Public Member*

DRAFT

NH WATER WELL BOARD MINUTES

October 24, 2013

A meeting of the New Hampshire Water Well Board ("Board") was held on October 24, 2013, in the Department of Environmental Services Building in rooms 112 and 113, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301.

Present were: Roger Skillings, Chairman  
Rene Pelletier, Secretary  
Board Members: Stephen Smith, Steve Guercia, Steven Garside, David Hunt, and  
Frederick Chormann  
NH DES Staff: Richard Schofield and Kelsey Vaughn

Chairman Skillings brought the meeting to order at 9:34 AM.

**Approval of Minutes**

Upon motion by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Chormann, the Board voted to accept the Minutes of the August 22, 2013 meeting.

**Previous Complaints**

**Rowley / Maple View Development LLC**

Mr. Schofield reported to the Board that the new dug well constructed by Maple View Development LLC on August 13, 2013 was working and the owner was satisfied. Mr. Schofield also reported that the owner would like to keep the original well and not decommission it. The Board discussed if the well should be decommissioned, especially in relation to public safety. The Board decided to table the discussion until the next meeting.

**Pellino / Derry Well Company**

The Board continued the complaint filed by Mr. Pellino against Derry Well Company. Mr. Schofield reported to the Board that he was present to observe a recorded camera survey of Mr. Pellino's well on September 25, 2013. After no objection by the Board or Mr. Pellino, Mr. Schofield played the VHS recording of the down-hole survey, which had been queued to 120 feet. The remainder of the tape was viewed by the Board and public in attendance. The Board discussed what the original complaint was and asked Mr. Pellino to clarify what the original complaint was. Mr. Pellino stated that he was questioning the depth of casing. The Board agreed that the counter on the recorded camera survey was 232 feet, so there was approximately 230 feet of casing. Mr. Pellino stated to the Board that the well water was tested once for total coliform bacteria. The Board discussed if the casing was set into competent bedrock. Mr. Skillings read rule We 101.08, which provides a definition for competent bedrock. Hugh

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McKissick, the machine operator, explained to the Board the conditions and characteristics of the drilling for this well. The recorded camera survey was viewed again by the Board and public in attendance, and the Board discussed the location of the drive shoe and casing.

Mr. Schofield reported to the Board that the well was located 76 feet from the septic tank and 50 feet from the edge of Pine River Road. Mr. Steve Banton of Clear Water Artesian Well Co. Inc. explained to the Board that he talked to Mr. Pellino about the location of the well and stated that he placed the well within proper distances of the septic tank, septic field, and property lines. Mr. Hunt made the motion that the complaint was non-founded; that the well construction meets the water well rules, regulations, and guidelines; that the current well completion report be accepted as is; and that the complaint not go to the complaint registry. The motion was not seconded.

The Board discussed if the well was located in a non-conforming location. Mr. Guercia made a motion that based on the well completion report for the well completed on May 23, 2012, the casing is 6 feet into competent bedrock when it needs to be 10 feet, which violates the rules, and that there needs to be an acknowledgement that it does not meet the requirement for the amount of casing into competent bedrock. Mr. Smith seconded that motion. The Board discussed possible public health concerns for this well. Mr. Skillings asked Mr. Pellino if he could work anything out with Derry Well Company before a motion was voted on. Mr. Pellino said that he did not want to do anything further with mediation with Derry Well Company. Mr. Guercia revised his motion to state that the Board acknowledges that the 10 foot requirement of casing into bedrock was not met; however, the water quality is not impacted by the casing length. The water quality issues should be addressed through shocking and/or treatment for iron and manganese, as is consistent with bedrock wells in New Hampshire. They do not recommend that the well be abandoned. The revised motion was seconded by Mr. Pelletier and was passed by a majority vote. Mr. Smith was opposed.

Mr. Guercia made a motion that the violation of not having 10 feet of casing into the bedrock does not impact water quality, so there is no consequence to the driller. It is the responsibility of the owner to provide the water quality that they desire. The motion was seconded by Mr. Chormann and was passed by a majority vote. Mr. Smith was opposed.

The Board further discussed the location of the well, the casing length, and whether the casing was grouted. Mr. Schofield reported to the Board that the ground wire was not bonded to the well casing, but an attempt was made to make that bond. Mr. Guercia made a motion that the well be accepted as drilled in spite of the four violations (insufficient casing length [We 602.06(f)(2)], non-conforming location [We 602.05(d)], ground wire not bonded to the well casing [We 702.04(j)], and late reporting [We 801.03(c)]) and that recommendations be made to DES to consider appropriate consequences regarding those violations. The motion was seconded by Mr. Pelletier and was passed by a majority vote. Mr. Hunt was opposed.

### **New Complaint**

#### **Lux / Skillings and Sons Inc.**

For this complaint, Mr. Skillings recused himself as Chairman, left the table, and Mr. Pelletier became the temporary Chairman. Mr. Norman Skillings of Skillings and Sons Inc. appeared before the Board to discuss the complaint filed against his company. Mr. Schofield informed the Board of the information provided in a complaint filed by Mr. Timothy Lux against Skillings and Sons Inc. (hereinafter Skillings). Mr. Schofield read Skillings' written response to the complaint

as well as DES's written response to Skillings. Mr. Schofield showed the Board photos of well casings provided by Mr. Lux and two containers of water that were taken by Mr. Lux. Norman Skillings addressed the Board to state that the well was drilled and chlorinated but no pump was installed. Following a discussion on the water samples and the various causes of rust on steel well casing, Mr. Hunt motioned to dismiss the complaint, and Mr. Smith seconded the motion. Mr. Pelletier confirmed that the complaint would not go on the registry. The Board voted unanimously to dismiss the complaint.

### **Old Business**

#### **Town of Hinsdale Well #1**

George Burns of Dennis L Maher Co represented the Town of Hinsdale's request for exemption of We 604.04 and We 604.05(b), which would permit the well to be decommissioned by filling Well #1 with No. 2 sand to within 10 feet of the top of casing and to grout the remainder of the well. The column pipe and pump bowls would remain in the well. Mr. Burns stated that the pump could not be removed from the hole. Mr. Hunt made a motion to acknowledge that the Town of Hinsdale made a valid attempt to remove the pump and to honor the original request for exemption, and Mr. Guercia seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to grant the original request for exemption.

### **Licensing**

#### **Continuing Education Committee**

Mr. Guercia and Mr. Garside met with Terry Swain in September and reported to the Board what was discussed. The Board discussed the options for recertification requirements, specifically if continuing education could be fulfilled by hours or point accumulation and the types of events that would qualify for recertification. Mr. Skillings attended a Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection meeting, where continuing education credits for well drillers in Massachusetts was discussed. Mr. Skillings reported that Massachusetts is rewriting its regulations. The Board agreed to continue to formalize the recertification requirements and table the discussion until the next meeting.

#### **License Applicants**

The Board considered an application from Bernard Carrier for a pump installer license. Mr. Hunt motioned to accept Mr. Carrier's application and Mr. Smith seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to approve the application.

### **Administrative Rules**

The Board considered proposed changes to Chapter We 300 that was prepared by Mr. Schofield. The Board considered We 301.01 and the definition of "person," which was determined to be the statutory definition of a "person." The Board discussed the role a "master well driller" or "master pump installer" should have in the business, as an owner, partner, or employee. The Board asked Mr. Schofield to simplify the language for We 301.02, specifically in relation to experience needed for "journeymen" and "masters." The Board discussed 301.03(b), particularly the conditions under which a "licensed master" can be employed by a business. The Board discussed if there should be a limit to the number of people working under a "licensed master." The Board discussed We 301.10 and what names should go on the well completion report. The Board discussed licensing, specifically "business licenses" and "qualified individuals." The

Board discussed these proposed changes at length and asked Mr. Schofield to revise the rules to present at a later Board meeting.

Mr. Schofield reported to the Board that he met with Rob Tardif to discuss minimum setbacks to septic system leach fields for closed loop geothermal wells. The Board discussed this minimum setback distance and thought that 25 feet might be appropriate. Mr. Schofield sent a copy of the well siting rules to the NH Water Well Association and Granite State Designers and Installers Association for them to review and comment. Mr. Schofield did a training class for the Subsurface Systems Bureau licensed designers and installers at Mt. Sunapee Ski Area for water well construction rules and setbacks.

### **New Business**

#### **Property Line Setbacks**

The Board discussed changing the name of the "Nonconforming Location Form" to a "Setback Reduction Form." The discussion continued around requiring due diligence for the homeowner and well driller for a safe well.

#### **Buried Well Heads**

The Board considered an email received from Peter Caswell of Caswell Pump Co. Inc., explaining to the Board that he feels that home building inspectors and realtors are ignoring buried well head regulations. The Board agreed that training for home building inspectors and realtors concerning buried well heads could be beneficial but that resources are limited, so a letter will be sent to Mr. Caswell asking him to approach the Association of Home Inspectors to coordinate this training.

#### **Other**

Mr. Smith informed the Board of how the rule for cementing casing in standing column wells has hindered him and suggested revising the grout requirement for standing column wells.

Upon motion by Mr. Garside, and seconded by Mr. Hunt, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting.

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Rene Pelletier  
Water Well Board Secretary